

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 038056
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 SNM-02 PRS-01 PA-01 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE: EDSMITH:RAH
APPROVED BY EUR/SE: RCEWING
SCA/SCS:RDAVIS
L/SCA:RDALTON

-----191005 108690 /13

R 182150Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, CASC, TU

SUBJECT: US PRISONERS IN TURKEY - PAST AND PRESENT

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. BILLY HAYES, EX-US PRISONER IN
TURKEY ON NARCOTICS OFFENSE, WHO ESCAPED FROM TURKISH
PRISON, HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY IN CONNECTION
WITH PUBLICATION OF HIS BOOK "MIDNIGHT EXPRESS" RELATING
HIS TURKISH EXPERIENCE. "NEW YORK TIMES" FEBRUARY 18
AD READS AS FOLLOWS:

QTE. HE USED TO BE THE ALL-AMERICAN BOY. NOW HE'S THE
AMERICAN "PAPILLON." BILLY HAYES WAS A NICE BOY FROM A
DECENT FAMILY. HE HAD NEVER BEEN IN TROUBLE. BUT AT 23
HE MADE THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF HIS LIFE. RETURNING FROM A
TRIP, HE WAS ARRESTED IN TURKEY WHILE CARRYING A SMALL
AMOUNT OF HASHISH. HIS SENTENCE: FOUR YEARS--IN THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 038056

FILTHIEST, MOST BRUTAL OF TURKISH PRISONS. A SLENDER
BLOND AMONG SWARTHY CRIMINALS AND MADMEN, HE WAS BEATEN
AND DEGRADED, HIS SENTENCE WAS EXTENDED--TO THIRTY YEARS.
USING CODE, HE WROTE HIS PARENTS HE COULD NO LONGER WAIT
FOR THE "LEGAL LOCAL"--THEIR EFFORTS TO FREE HIM THROUGH
CHANNELS. HE WOULD TAKE THE "MIDNIGHT EXPRESS" AND ATTEMPT
AN IMPOSSIBLE ESCAPE. BILLY HAYES' FIRST PERSON ACCOUNT OF

HIS HARROWING LIFE IN PRISON AND HIS EVEN MORE HARROWING

ESCAPE IS "A BONE-CHILLING SUSPENSE THAT IS MORE GRIPPING THAN FICTION," SAYS "PUBLISHERS WEEKLY". AND "A CLASSIC SUSPENSE STORY...EXPRESS ALL THE WAY." "THE KIRKUS REVIEWS. UNQTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. CASE OF ANTAKYA 3 WAS RAISED WITH PROFESSOR OSMAN OKYAR, WHO IS ON VISIT TO WASHINGTON, BY GOVERNOR STAUB'S OFFICE IN OREGON AND BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS FROM WISCONSIN AND OREGON. OKYAR WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH DETAILS OF CASE BUT PROMISED TO REPORT THEIR CONCERNS TO GOT ON HIS RETURN. DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED CASE IN GENERAL TERMS TO OKYAR AND MENTIONED THAT TREATY POSSIBILITY WAS BEING CONSIDERED BY TURKISH GOVERNMENT.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS, PRISONERS WELFARE, BOOKS, PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE038056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EDSMITH:RAH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770059-1211
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770226/aaaaawtf.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b08b7cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3277763
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US PRISONERS IN TURKEY - PAST AND PRESENT
TAGS: PINS, CASC, TU, US, (HAYES, BILLY)
To: ANKARA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b08b7cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009